

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00931 061431Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 SCCT-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 FDRE-00 SCS-03 AID-05

DHA-02 /093 W

----- 026964

R 061345Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3674

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: HOPEFUL SIGNS BELIED BY HARSH REALITY IN ASMARA

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 13055 (NOTAL) B. ASMARA 0920

1. INITIAL REACTION BY ASMARA RESIDENTS TO STATEMENT OF
ETHIOPIAN FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO (REF A) IS APPARENTLY ONE OF
SKEPTICISM AND SUSPICION. ERITREANS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT
WODAJO AND EPMG HAVE BEEN PRESSURED INTO CONCILIATORY GESTURE
ON ERITREA PRIMARILY AS RESULT OF DISRUPTION THROUGHOUT ETHIOPIA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00931 061431Z

THIS THEORY FOLLOWS FROM BELIEF THAT EPMG IS ATTEMPTING TO DELAY

CONTINUED DISSOLUTION OF EMPIRE BY APPEARING TO SINCERELY SEEK RESOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM. SOME SOURCES ALSO CREDIT EPMG MILITARY WITH APPLYING PRESSURE TO PMAC TO END COSTLY HOSTILITIES IN ERITREA. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD HOWEVER, THAT ERITREAN PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN REST OF ETHIOPIA IS HIGHLY COLORED BY WISHFUL THINKING.

2. WIDELY RUMORED REOPENING OF ROADS THROUGHOUT ERITREA (REF B), ORIGINALLY SET FOR NOV. 4 AND NOW REPORTED TO BE NOV. 11, APPARENTLY STEMS FROM VISIT TO MASSAWA OF TWO MEMBERS OF DIRG. VISIT WAS PRIMARILY TO NEGOTIATE RELEASE OF NAVAL OFFICERS WHO WERE DETAINED BY THEIR MEN DURING NAVY STRIKE WEEK OF OCT. 20. DURING VISIT, DIRG MEMBERS SPOKE WITH RESIDENTS OF MASSAWA, WHO COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT DEPRIVATIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSURE OF ASMARA-MASSAWA ROTIO/(KUAS LOCAL SITUATION CONFIRMED THIS FACT, DIRG MEMBERS PREVAILED ON PMAC TO INSTRUCT EPMG AUTHORITIES IN ERITREA TO REOPEN ROADS. OPPOSITION TO THIS DIRECTIVE APPARENTLY CENTERS AMONG ENLISTED ARMY PERSONNEL; HOWEVER, IT IS ASSUMED THAT COMMAND WILL EVENTUALLY BE OBEYED.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF FOODSTUFFS, WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEGUN NOW. 6, HAS APPARENTLY ALSO ENCOUNTERED OPPOSITION. LOCAL MISSIONARIES PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF RESUMPTION OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AND ASSUME THAT SUCH DISTRIBUTION WILL BE EFFECTED IN ETHIOPIA BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES. EPMG-CONTROLLED PROGRAM COULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE MUCH LESS ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE THAN ONE CONDUCTED BY VOLAGS.

4. LAST WEEK IT WAS REPORTED THAT SEVERAL POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR SOME TIME WERE RELEASED, GIVING RISE TO FURTHER MOVE TOWARD MODERATION. THESE RELEASES, HOWEVER, WERE CONTRADICTED BY FURTHER WIDESPREAD ARRESTS, INCLUDING DETENTION OF NUMBER OF LOCAL MERCHANTS ON NOV. 5. ARRESTS OF ASMARA RESIDENTS IS PERHAPS MOST VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF CONTRADICTION BETWEEN EFFORTS AT CONCILIATION AND REALITIES AS THEY ARE EXPERIENCED BY ERITREANS.
WAUCHOPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DETENTION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750386-0541
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751170/aaaackdh.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ADDIS ABABA 13055
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOPEFUL SIGNS BELIED BY HARSH REALITY IN ASMARA
TAGS: PINS, ET, (KIFLE WODAJJO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006